

Readings 1966-1967

Camus. The Rebel.

Simpson. This View of Life.

Marx and Engels. Communist Manifesto.

~~Lenin~~. State and Revolution.

Sophocles. The Oedipus cycle.

Plato. Phaedo; Crito.

Iacobsen. The Nature of Things.

Jaspers. Plato and St. Augustine.

Dante. The Inferno (Ciardi translation).

Diderot. D'Alambert's Dream.

Diderot. Rameau's Nephew.

Voltaire. Candide.

Constant. Adolphe.

Stendahl. The Charterhouse of Parma.

Dostoevsky. Brothers Karamazov.

Sartre. The Game is Over.

Camus. The Stranger.

Camus. The Fall.

Reference: Barnes. An Intellectual and Cultural History of the Western World.

Readings 1967-68 (new)

Joyce. Portrait of the artist as a young man
Svevo. Confessions of Zeno

Markandaya. Nectar in a sieve
Lewis. Children of Sanchez
Ellison. The invisible man
Brown. Mandibild in the promised land

Lorenz. On aggression
Wynn Edwards (Sci. Amer. article).

Other books considered:

Malcolm X. Autobiography
Fanon. The wretched of the earth

Flaubert. Sentimental education
Tolstoy. The Death of Ivan Ilich
Hagi Murad
Dostoevsky. The Possessed
Crime and Punishment

~~Tolstoy. Death of Ivan Ilich~~

Brechner. Woyzeck

Sartre. The Flies. No exit.

Readings, 1968-69 (new)

Hesse. Magister Ludi
" . Siddhartha .

Baghavad Gita.

Sartre. The flies.
No exit.

Lophocles, Antigone

Anhouil. Antigone

Existentialist call for action and exercise
of responsibility.

Artist et Son Temps.

Artist, conflict between commitment and engagement and artistic integrity (search for expression of valid common experience).

Today Creation a dangerous experience
Art for art's sake as claim to irresponsibility.

Realism as absolute, not art, does not exist.

Art as choice ~~& search~~ Art as search and rebellion

Both art for art's sake (nonobjectives, absurd) and socialist realism are reflections of human society (because of what it is or was) ~~not because of the~~ reflecting vs. accept. & rebellion.

Academism + conformism

→ Art as revolt against bauhaus and mechanical [see science]. [Revolt against death, effort to create the stable & eternal]

p. 202. Suffering of men is a subject so immense that apparently no one can feel it.

The free artist creates his own order.

Zinn Histman, Activist scholar like citizen of Athens. Necessity of the past and nonnecessity of the future. Actions as if

Lao-Tse philosophy, machine; comment interpreted
as political action.

The artist as "embarque" dans la galère de modernité.
→ "Créer aujourd'hui c'est créer dangereusement."

Not only conflict with institutions, but conflict
within artist. Artists questioning art and its goals
[Not yet science]. Art as a phony luxury.

Art in a merchant society, dedicated to symbols
rather than possessions. Requires irresponsible art,
art for art's sake.

Liberation of revolt. From revolt against cross
society to revolt in general. Illusion of
creating one's own reality.

Realism as opposite scheme. Realism as illusion.

Socialist realism as equally dissociated from
artistic reality.

Common element of formal art and of
pseudorealism: academicism + conformism.

Art as a revolt against reality in its banal
and machined aspects.

→ "Ni le refus total ni le consentement
total à ce qui est." Problem of what
does of reality to lead in order neither to rise
in the clouds nor to be held to the ground.

"la peinture des hommes et un sujet si grand
qu'il semble que personne ne saurait y
toucher." [Paraphrase: the danger to man...]

Tentative Outline

Man in Nature and in Books

- First Group. The conflict between biological necessity and consciousness.
 The Question of "historical necessity."
 Camus. The Rebel
 Simpson. This View of Life
 Marx-Engels. The Communist Manifesto
 Lenin. State and Revolution
- Second Group. Biological necessity, order, fate: an early existentialist compromise?
✓ Sophocles. The Oedipus cycle
✓ Plato. Phaedo
 Lucretius. The Nature of Things
- Third Group The assault by mysticism and the Christian epic.
 Medieval synthesis.
 St Augustin. The City of God
 Dante. The Inferno
 St. Francis of Assisi. Little Flowers
- Fourth Group The humanistic and rationalistic revival.
 Montaigne. Essays
 Pascal. Provincial Letters (paperback? Modern Library)
✓ Diderot. D'Alembert's Dream
 Sequel to Bougainville's Voyage
- Fifth Group. The two modern incarnations of man: romantic and anti-romantic hero.
 Nietzsche. Beyond Good and Evil
 The Genealogy of Morals
 Constant. Adolphe.
 Stendahl. The Charterhouse of Parma
 Flaubert. Sentimental Education
- Sixth Group. Choice and necessity.
 Dostoyevsky. Crime and Punishment Brothers Karamazov
 Tolstoy. The Death of Ivan Illich
 Hegi Murad
 Buechner. Woyzeck
 Sartre. No Exit
 The Flies
 Camus The Stranger

General Reference Source:

Barnes. Intellectual and Cultural History of the Western World, vols. 1 and 2.